NUMB. CIX.

The SPECTATOR.

Ab normis ſapiens——Hor.

Thurſday, July 5. 1711.

I Was this Morning walking in the Gallery, when Sir ROGER enter'd at the end oppoſite to me, and advancing towards me, ſaid, he was glad to meet me among his Relations the DE COVERLEYS, and hoped I liked the Converſation of ſo much good Company, who were as ſilent as my ſelf. I knew he alluded to the Pictures, and as he is a Gentleman who does not a little value himſelf upon his ancient Deſcent, I expected he would give me ſome Account of them. We were now arrived at the upper End of the Gallery, when the Knight faced towards one of the Pictures, and as we ſtood before it, he entered into the Matter after his blunt way of ſaying things, as they occur to his Imagination, without regular Introduction, or Care to preſerve the appearance of Chain of Thought.

'It is, ſaid he, worth while to conſider the Force 'of Dreſs, and how the Perſons of one Age differ 'from thoſe of another, merely by that only. One 'may obſerve alſo that the General Faſhion of one 'Age has been follow'd by one particular Set of 'People in another, and by them preſerved from 'one Generation to another. Thus the vaſt Jetting Coat and ſmall Bonnet, which was the Habit 'in *Harry* the Seventh's time, is kept on in the 'Yeomen of the Guard, not without a good and 'Politick View, becauſe they look a Foot taller, 'and a Foot and an half broader: Beſides that the 'Cap leaves the Face expanded, and conſequently 'more Terrible, and fitter to ſtand at the Entrance 'of Palaces.

'This Predeceſſor of ours, you ſee, is dreſſed after this manner, and his Cheeks would be no larger than mine were he in an Hat as I am. He 'was the laſt Man that won a Prize in the Tilt-Yard (which is now a Common Street before *Whitehall*.) You ſee the broken Lance that lyes 'there by his right Foot; He ſhivered that Lance 'of his Adverſary all to pieces; and bearing himſelf, look you Sir, in this manner, at the ſame time 'he came within the Target of the Gentleman who 'rode againſt him, and taking him with incredible 'Force before him on the Pummel of his Saddle, 'he in that manner rid the Turnament over, with 'an Air that ſhewed he did it rather to perform the 'Rule of the Liſts, than Expoſe his Enemy; however it appeared, he knew how to make uſe of 'a Victory, and with a gentle Trot he marched up 'to a Gallery where their Miſtreſs ſate (for they 'were Rivals) and let him down with laudable 'Courteſy and pardonable Inſolence. I don't know 'but it might be exactly where the Coffee-houſe is 'now.

'You are to know this my Anceſtor was not 'only of a military Genius but fit alſo for the 'Arts of Peace, for he play'd on the Baſe-viol as well 'as any Gentleman at Court; you ſee where his 'Viol hangs by his Basket-hilt Sword. The Action 'at the Tilt-yard you may be ſure won the Fair 'Lady, who was a Maid of Honour, and the greateſt Beauty of her time; here ſhe ſtands, the next 'Picture. You ſee, Sir, my Great Great Great 'Grand-Mother has on the new-faſhioned Petticoat, 'except that the Modern is gathered at the Waſte; 'my Grandmother appears as if ſhe ſtood in a large 'Drum, whereas the Ladies now walk as if they 'were in a Go-cart. For all this Lady was bred 'at Court ſhe became an Excellent Country-Wife, 'ſhe brought ten Children, and when I ſhow you 'the Library, you ſhall ſee in her own hand (allowing for the Difference of the Language,) the beſt 'Receipt now in *England* both for an Haſty-Pudding and a Whitepot.

'If you pleaſe to fall back a little, becauſe it is 'neceſſary to look at the three next Pictures at one 'View; theſe are three Siſters. She on the right 'Hand, who is ſo very beautiful, dyed a Maid; 'the next to her, ſtill handſomer, had the ſame

'Fate

'Fate againſt her Will; this homely thing in the mid-
'dle had both their Portions added to her own, and
'was Stolen by a neighbouring Gentleman, a Man
'of Stratagem and Reſolution, for he poiſoned three
'Maſtiffs to come at her, and knocked down two
'Dear-ſtealers in carrying her off: Misfortunes
'happen in all Families: The Theft of this Romp,
'and ſo much Mony, was no great matter to our
'Eſtate; but the next Heir that poſſeſſed it was this
'ſoft Gentleman, whom you ſee there; obſerve
'the ſmall Buttons, the little Boots, the Laces, the
'Slaſhes about his Cloaths, and above all the Po-
'ſture he is drawn in, (which to be ſure was his
'own chuſing;) you ſee he ſits with one Hand on a
'Desk writing, and looking as it were another way,
'like an eaſie Writer, or a Sonneteer: He was one
'of thoſe that had too much Wit to know how to
'live in the World; he was a Man of no Juſtice, but
'great good Manners; he ruined every body that had
'any thing to do with him, but never ſaid a rude
'thing in his Life; the moſt indolent Perſon in the
'World, he would ſign a Deed that paſſed away
'half his Eſtate with his Gloves on, but would
'not put on his Hat before a Lady if it were to
'ſave his Country. He is ſaid to be the firſt that
'made Love by ſqueezing the Hand. He left the
'Eſtate with ten thouſand Pounds Debt upon it,
'but however by all Hands I have been informed
'that he was every way the fineſt Gentleman in
'the World. That Debt lay heavy on our Houſe
'for one Generation, but it was retrieved by a
'Gift from that Honeſt Man you ſee there, a Ci-
'tizen of our Name, but nothing at all a-kin to us.
'I know Sir *Andrew Freeport* has ſaid behind my
'Back, that this Man was deſcended from one of
'the ten Children of the Maid of Honour I ſhew-
'ed you above. But it was never made out; we
'winked at the thing indeed, becauſe Mony was
'wanting at that time.

Here I ſaw my Friend a little embarraſſed, and turned my Face to the next Portraiture.

Sir ROGER went on with his Account of the Gallery in the following manner. 'This Man '(pointing to him I look'd at) I take to be the 'Honour of our Houſe, Sir HUMPHREY DE 'COVERLEY; he was in his Dealings as punctu-'al as a Tradeſman, and as generous as a Gentle-'man. He would have thought himſelf as much 'undone by breaking his Word, as if it were to 'be followed by Bankruptcy. He ſerved his 'Country as Knight of this Shire to his dying Day: 'He found it no eaſie matter to maintain an Inte-'grity in his Words and Actions even in things 'that regarded the Offices which were incumbent 'upon him, in the care of his own Affairs and Re-'lations of Life, and therefore dreaded (tho' he had 'great Talents) to go into Employments of State, 'where he muſt be expoſed to the Snares of Am-'bition. Innocence of Life and great Ability were 'the diſtinguiſhing Parts of his Character; the latter, 'he had often obſerved, had led to the Deſtruction 'of the former, and uſed frequently to lament that 'Great and Good had not the ſame Signification. 'He was an Excellent Husbandman, but had re-'ſolved not to exceed ſuch a degree of Wealth, all 'above it he beſtowed in ſecret Bounties many 'Years after the Sum he aimed at for his own 'uſe was attained. Yet he did not ſlacken his In-'duſtry, but to a decent old Age ſpent the Life and 'Fortune which was ſuperfluous to himſelf in the 'Service of his Friends and Neighbours.

Here we were called to Dinner, and Sir ROGER ended the Diſcourſe of this Gentleman, by telling me, as we followed the Servant, that this his Anceſtor was a Brave Man, and narrowly eſcaped being killed in the Civil Wars; 'for, ſaid he, he was ſent out of the 'Field upon a private Meſſage the Day before the 'Battel of *Worceſter*. The Whim of narrowly e-ſcaping, by having been within a Day of Danger, with other Matters above-mentioned, mixed with good Senſe, left me at a Loſs whether I was more delighted with my Friend's Wiſdom or Simplicity.

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of June, are to be ſold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-Houſe, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Church in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard; Mr. Rouna in Exchange Ally, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane, where alſo may be had thoſe for the Months of March, April and May.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

WHereas her Majeſty hath been Graciouſly pleas'd to grant her Royal Letters Patents unto Mr. Michael Cole, for the ſole Uſe of his Invention of a new ſort of Lights, conſiſting of one entire Globular Glaſs, which will caſt a true, clear, ſtrong and uniform Light, without glaring or uncertain Shadow, and which by Experience hath been found to be very Uſeful and Ornamental in Churches Halls, Stair Caſes, Streets, and any other Publick Places. Theſe are to give Notice to all Perſons deſirous to be Accommodated with the ſame, that they can be afforded and maintained at one third part of the Charge of other Lights heretofore us'd, and that the Patentee or his Agents may be heard of, or ſpoken with at Mr. Peter Smith's a Merchant in New Court in Swithin's Lane near Lumbard Street.

The Undertakers of the Fatherly Society, at their Office in Knowles Court Little-Carter-lane, give notice to all Perſons Members of the ſaid Society, That upon Saturday the ſeventh Day of July Inſtant, they will give ſuch Reaſonable and Good Security for the faithful Execution of the Truſt of the ſaid Office as to the Truſtees ſhall ſeem fit to require, and that all Perſons Members of the ſaid Society who ſhall not before that Time have paid all their Contributions due to the ſaid Society, will then peremtorily be Excluded all Benefit and Advantage which would otherwiſe accrue by Virtue of any Entry or Claim by them made in the ſaid Office; at which Time no Claims made upon the ſaid Society will be then Adjuſted, and the Payment of them directed in due Courſe, as they have been or ſhall be made upon the ſaid Society.

Loſt on Wedneſday the 4th Inſtant, about Noon, between Hampſtead and Highgate, a Rich Gold Chaſt Scollop-ſhell Snuff Box, ſuppoſed to be drop about Cane-Wood or between Hampſtead and London. Whoever hath taken it up, and ſhall ſend it or bring it, either to Mr. White's Chocolate Houſe in St. James's Street, or to Mr. Adam's Goldſmith at the Black horſe in the Strand, ſhall Receive ſix Guineas Reward; or if offered to be pawned or ſold you are deſired to ſtop it, and to ſend notice of it to either of the above ſaid Places, and you ſhall receive the ſame Reward.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.